

Police cite drugs in double slayings

By Harry Harris

STAFF WRITER JUL 13 1996

OAKLAND — A man found slain in Redwood City after being abducted from his Oakland apartment was a major marijuana dealer probably killed because of his drug trafficking, police said Friday.

Devon Chung, 30, also known as Tony T. Smith, and his girlfriend, Tracy Carter, 18, who was also kidnapped and killed, were intended targets and not random victims, police said.

Carter was found on the Stanford University campus, and both she and Chung were beaten and stabbed, police said. They were kidnapped Tuesday night and their bodies found Wednesday morning.

Sgt. Tom Swisher said Chung's marijuana dealing was the reason for the killings. But whether Chung was killed by rivals, owed someone money or had double-crossed someone has not been established.

Swisher said police have information that Chung, who is Ja-

maican, could put together deals involving 50 to 100 pounds of marijuana. Narcotics officers said the current rate for a pound of marijuana ranges from \$350 to \$6,000, depending on the quality.

Swisher said inside a locked closet at Smith's apartment at 528 Merritt Ave., police found a briefcase containing \$71,000 in cash that the four kidnappers either did not know about or did not care about.

Also found inside the apartment was some marijuana, records referring to drug sales and a pistol that had been stolen from Vallejo, police said.

The apartment was actually rented by a West Oakland man who was a close acquaintance of Chung's. The same man also rented a luxury car police believe Carter was abducted in. Chung had lived in the apartment three years, and Carter had come to visit him a month ago.

Police also said Carter, who lived in Hamlin, N.Y., apparently had some role in the marijuana operation. Police found \$3,000 in-

side her purse that was left in the apartment elevator.

Police believe the pair were confronted individually late Tuesday night. Carter may have been abducted in the apartment garage, while Chung apparently willingly left his apartment.

A resident saw four men standing inside the elevator over an unconscious Chung.

It is believed the kidnappers used two cars to spirit Chung and Carter away from the apartment complex, one of which was the rental car Chung had access to. Swisher said Chung and Carter were not killed where they were found or at the apartment. There was evidence Carter may have been tortured with a sharp object before she died, police said.

It was not clear why the bodies were dumped in San Mateo County, although some investigators have speculated the kidnappers may have disposed of them while on their way to an airport.

Anyone with information about the killings is asked to call police at 238-3821.

Four sought in Oakland double slaying

By Harry Harris
STAFF WRITER

JUL 12 1996

OAKLAND — A woman found stabbed to death on the Stanford University campus and a man found bludgeoned to death in Redwood City were kidnapped from an Oakland apartment building, police said Thursday.

Investigators said the brutal killings may have involved narcotics, a money scam or possibly revenge for some kind of double-cross.

Four men seen in the apartment elevator with the dead man are being sought.

Authorities on Thursday identified the dead woman as 18-year-old Traci Carter, who carried identification from both New York and Pennsylvania.

Authorities believe the dead man is Tony T. Smith, 32, who is of Jamaican descent and has been known to use several different names.

Police believe the two were possibly boyfriend and girlfriend. Smith has lived in the apartment building on Merritt Avenue three

years while the woman apparently came to Oakland from the East Coast a month or so ago. Their bodies were discovered Wednesday morning.

Carter was found by a jogger about 6 a.m. Wednesday on a trail not far from the Lucille Nixon Elementary School on the Stanford University campus. She was probably dead when left at the site several hours earlier, police said. She had been stabbed repeatedly and wounds to her face indicated she may have been tortured with sharp objects, police said.

The man was found shortly after 9 a.m. Wednesday behind a Redwood Shores telecommunications firm by an employee out walking. He too was probably dead when dumped at the site, police said.

Oakland police said the victims were abducted about 10:30 p.m. Tuesday from an apartment building at 528 Merritt Ave., just east of Lake Merritt.

Police said the actual renter of the apartment is a West Oakland man who also rented

the car at least one of the victims was abducted in. Police believe the man and woman either were confronted in the building garage or possibly came willingly from their second floor apartment. There was no sign of forced entry to the apartment and some valuable items were left untouched, police said.

A witness told police of seeing four African-American men wearing similar clothing almost like uniforms standing in the elevator with the man lying unconscious on the floor.

Two of the men later were seen driving from the garage in a 1996 Chrysler found abandoned on Wood Drive in the Oakland hills. That car was the one rented by the man who also rented the Merritt apartment.

An area resident said the Chrysler had been on Wood Drive since about 11:30 p.m. Tuesday. Blood and other evidence linked to the kidnappings were found in the car's trunk, police said.

Anyone with information about the slayings is asked to call Oakland police at 238-3821.